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UM PRESIDENT PRAISES REPERTORY THEATER

"She Stoops to Conquer," the premier production of the Montana Repertory Theater, opened Thursday, Oct. 26 for a four-day run. Robert Pantzer, president of the University of Montana said the repertory company heralds a new concept in the performing arts.

Pantzer noted the Montana Repertory Theater is the first touring, repertory theater in Montana for more than half a century. He said it represents an unprecedented opportunity for professional growth and experience in the freedom and vigor that Montana affords performing artists.

"To the many citizens of the entire Northwest area, it represents the only opportunity to view live performances of plays to merit in their own cities and towns," Pantzer said.

The permanent home of the Montana Repertory Theater is the University of Montana. "This is rightly so," he said, "for it is the desire of this University not merely to shelter the arts, but to provide them with the talents and resources they need in order to serve the vital cultural needs of the entire Northwest."

Pantzer and the Montana Arts Council, the National Arts Foundation and the University of Montana have contributed sustaining grants for the first year of the company's operation. "But," he said, "as its professional hopes and ambitions grow higher with each new season, it will need increasing support, if the arts are not to simply survive but to grow vigorously in a technological age."